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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Military Technical Academy in Brno	DATE DISTR.	3 February 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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1. Students of the Military Technical Academy in Brno are recruited by competitive examination from among recent high-school graduates upon their graduation ("maturity"). The competitive examination takes place a few days after the results of the "maturity" are known. Visits of military officers in schools are permitted so that students may form an idea as to the career they may expect if they decide for this Academy, for which a very active propaganda is being made. A little over 100 candidates presented themselves for the examination at the end of June 1954, of whom 100 were declared admitted.
2. Those admitted start by spending two years at the military school at Lipnik nad Becnou (N 49-32, E 17-36), where they pursue an intensive but nonspecialized course of military and political training and where they leave with the rank of second or first lieutenant, depending on their grade.
3. Only after leaving Lipnik are the students assigned to the Military Technical Academy in Brno, where the course of studies lasts five years and where they leave with the title of military engineer. Thereafter, they have to serve three years in the Army. After that time, they are turned over to civilian life.
4. Discipline at the Academy is extremely strict. Students get leave to see their families only once a year. Courses of political indoctrination are especially stressed at the Academy.
5. The military engineers are the intermediaries between the army and the factories that work for national defense.

Comment: It has previously been assumed that the Academy in Brno trained specialized army officers such as engineer and signal officers to serve with combat troops. The information in this report indicates that this is not the case and that the Academy is rather a training center for engineers totally devoted to the régime and destined to form the cadres of the new socialist economy.

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